

Oregon State Board of Agriculture: Resolution Detail

Title

Agricultural Water Quality Management Program Strategic Implementation

Resolution Number

311

Background

In May 2012, the Board passed an action item recommending “ODA’s Natural Resource Division develop alternatives to a complaint-based Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. In addition, staff should identify current processes that could be streamlined, or eliminated, in order to devote more resources to building relationships, plan implementation, and compliance.” As a first step, the Board received the annual Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Report in September 2012. As part of that report, ODA presented the Board with a history of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program (program), discussed ongoing partnerships that help carry out program goals, and identified opportunities for improving program effectiveness.

At the November 2012 meeting, ODA presented the Board with options by posing questions around alternatives for initiating a strategic compliance process and for site selection criteria. As a result of these discussions, ODA has focused significant time and resources to develop a strategy to more efficiently and effectively carry out the program responsibilities to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural lands. Initially introduced as strategic compliance, the Board’s input led to broadening this proactive work to a concept of strategic program implementation.

Strategic program implementation is envisioned as an Oregon path toward effective implementation—to work together with agricultural and rural landowners in small geographic areas to address water quality concerns and landscape conditions by aligning available resources with our local, state and federal natural resource partners. Progress may be gauged by first assessing and recording land conditions that impact water quality, and then concisely targeting outreach, technical assistance, and financial incentives to address identified needs. By promoting voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address landscape impairments and by ODA pursuing regulatory action, when necessary, compliance with local area rules may be accomplished most successfully.

Compliance with the area rules is achieved through ensuring site capable streamside vegetation (grasses, shrubs and trees, where appropriate) is established to provide shade and stream bank stability as well as through creating upland conditions that control erosion and hold soil in place. Work completed by agricultural landowners needs to be acknowledged and the landscape re-assessed with coordinated monitoring to measure change. These strategic efforts address the maturing of ODA’s Agricultural Water Quality Management Program and the need to provide meaningful and measurable outcomes.

Resolution

Be it resolved: The Board of Agriculture supports the Department of Agriculture’s continuing efforts in the implementation and enforcement of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

Be it further resolved: The Board of Agriculture supports a full suite of tools necessary to pursue the state’s water quality goals that includes continuing complaint-based inspections, undertaking agency-initiated site inspections, and focusing strategic implementation in small geographic areas.

Be it further resolved: The Board of Agriculture supports the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program establishing and piloting a strategic program implementation process that prioritizes and targets resources to achieve compliance with the local area rules. The effort should be founded on the basic conservation principles of erosion control, nutrient management, stream bank stabilization, and moderation of solar heating of streams, promoted by aligning resources with local, state and federal natural resource partners.

Be it further resolved: The Board of Agriculture supports identifying key geographic areas to focus the department’s resources on accelerating landscape assessments, accounting for conservation efforts, and measuring results and outcomes.

Summary

Water quality management program

Resolution Date

3/7/13

Subject

Water

Committee

Natural Resource

Moved by

Tracey Liskey

Seconded by

Jerome Rosa

Action

Motion Carried

Status

- Active
- Inactive
- Revise

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Notes